

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1854.

## POLITICS AND PARTIES IN NEW YORK.

We have already adverted to the divisions in the Democratic party in the great State of New York, and to the dissatisfaction among the Whigs. With the first difference appears to have ripened into settled enmity, and the feuds of the latter are fast tending to an irreconcilable estrangement. The result of the election near at hand will therefore, we presume, be no test of the strength of either of the old parties, nor will it afford any certain index for the future.

Soon after the Whig nominations at Syracuse were made, the Free-soilers held their adjourned Convention at Auburn and adopted as their candidates Messrs. CLARK and RAYMOND, who had been previously nominated by the Whigs, and put forth a platform altogether ultra and objectionable. The candidates accepted the creed, and at once alienated thousands of National Whigs. The Commercial Advertiser and the Courier of New York city, the Commercial Advertiser at Buffalo, and some other journals spoke out promptly and plainly in disapprobation of the facility with which the nominees embraced the Free-soilers. The defection is now irretrievably made. The nomination of DANIEL ULLMANN by the "Know-Nothings" complicated the case, as the lawyers would term it; and now nobody can tell what is to be the result, though the "Temperance question" is a prominent, if not a controlling, feature in the canvass.

We find by the papers received yesterday that all these party breaches are widening. We believe, however, with the New York Commercial Advertiser, that "agitating events may so generally disturb the public mind as to give temporarily a radical bias to the majority of the whole people, and the sober reflecting portion of the community have only the alternative of waiting for that calm which, in the political world as surely as in the physical, succeeds the storm."

Referring to the rumor that another Whig State Convention was to be held, the Commercial considers that there is no time for the consummation of the project, if it has been seriously entertained. We append a few extracts from the further sensible views of that paper:

"Of course, the movement has its origin with the more dissatisfied portion of the Whig party, who are much dissatisfied with the nominations made at Syracuse, and still more with the conduct of the nominees in endorsing the resolves of the Saratoga Convention; which act of theirs, so unwarranted under the circumstances, is nearly equivalent to an endorsement also of the still stronger language adopted by that same Convention after its adjournment to Auburn. With their objections so strongly sympathized, believing the conduct of the candidates to have indicated a deplorable calamity on the party, and to be in violation of its well-established principles." \* \* \*

"So far, we presume, the conservative section of the Whig organization is united in sentiment. We are in the position of a party having no candidates. Those in whose nomination we at all sincerely took part, and were prepared to support cordially and heartily at the ballot-box, have failed us. It would seem as though they had so far mistaken the meaning of the unanimity that prevailed in the Convention as to interpret it into a license to follow their own predilections to the benefit of their inclination. Be that as it may, they have mistaken, and in their present course do greatly misrepresent the real heartfelt sentiments of the true Whig party. The Whigs are nowhere radicals. They are inherently, essentially, necessarily the reverse. They have always inscribed a liberal conservatism upon their banners, and such must ever be their distinguishing characteristic. Radicalism and demagogism and wild impracticable theories cannot find a congenial and permanent home in their ranks." \* \* \*

"The whole free State have been lashed into agitation by the passing storm evoked by Senator DOUGLASS and his abettors in the Administration and in the Southern States; and one cannot wonder that, their political views and other things taken into consideration, the Whigs of the free States have participated largely in the common agitation, or that in the present state of the popular excitement, the Syracuse Convention, and consequently its nominees, were strongly impregnated with the anti-slavery feeling—much more so than the minds of those who have entertained other ideas and aims than that one question which with the masses has for the time almost annihilated every other. But who supposes that the storm is never to spend itself and be succeeded by a calm? Who supposes that the American people and it is with them that we have to do—will long cherish extreme and sectional views on a question of such moment and such delicacy as that which is now exciting them? The reaction is as certain as the return of the seasons. It may be impossible to stem the torrent while the storm lasts, but with the abatement of the tempest will come also the falling back of the waters into their accustomed channels. We would counsel our Whig conservative friends, therefore, to wait and see what next year will bring forth. We should give the same counsel even were there ten weeks instead of ten days for deliberation and action. A single mistake, or what we may think a mistake, is no justification for disorganizing the party by making opposition nominations. If the majority of the party think with us that a grave error has been committed, they will contract it by withholding their sanction at the polls, and will take care to rectify it next year."

The Commercial thus comes to the conclusion that no compelling nomination ought to be made by the Whigs, and inquires—

"Of what practical utility such a convention, or any movement of that character, could possibly be at the present moment. This is the twenty-fourth of October, and the State election will take place on the 7th of November. How is it possible to effect any thing of organization, or even judiciously to select candidates, within that time?" "Surely there are already parties enough in the field—candidates of almost every political shade—without making confusion worse confounded by the addition of another. Let us as Whigs get through the present campaign as well as we can; the skies will brighten hereafter."

In regard to the Whig candidates for Congress there is also some trouble. National Whigs, such as Mr. HAVEN, of Buffalo, are opposed by Free-soilers, yet it is to be hoped with very little success. On this point the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser has some remarks, which we subjoin:

"From various sections of the State we hear of combinations to defeat National Whigs who have been regularly nominated by Conventions representing the whole party. In most cases the arrangements are made with out any pretence of a concealment. In fact, the Free-soilers, in most places where they are in a minority, as they are in this Congressional district, have no hesitation in avowing their determination to disregard all party obligations, and to bargain with the Democrats, hard or soft, to achieve the defeat of all candidates who are not of their stripe. In the Canadiana district a National Whig is up for the Assembly. He was fairly nominated by a convention regularly organized; but Mr. HAVEN, CLARK's special organ opposes his election and confidently predicts his defeat."

So in the 20th Congressional district; and the Commercial says it might extend the list indefinitely.

ly. We can scarcely believe so useful and influential a member as Mr. HAVEN can be beaten even by the strongest combinations.

These matters are put upon record that the reader may see the difficulties which attend the coming contest in the important State of New York.

The subjoined article is also explanatory of the tangled condition of affairs:

FROM THE NEW YORK EXPRESS OF OCTOBER 24.

How SHALL WE VOTE FOR STATE OFFICERS is always a question of importance, inasmuch as the administration of the affairs of the Government of the Empire State is no small affair; but in the State, as in the city, it is impossible to foresee results, or even to vote intelligently or upon any principle.

Seymour would be re-elected Governor by eighty thousand majority or more if there were but one Democratic party in this State just now, but there being two, things have altogether another look. If he were the only Democratic candidate in the field he would have fifty thousand Whig votes or more.

But Bronson comes in and divides the Democracy, carrying with him the old line of the Democracy, and satisfactory in the main in all his principles, except in that he wrote on the Nebraska bill. There was nothing but that letter which while ago prevented his receiving sixty or seventy thousand Whig votes.

Clark and Raymond on the Baltimore and Syracuse platforms were strong enough, in the divisions of the Democratic parties, to have swept the State; but, having fun away from these platforms, the question is whether they will gain enough from the Temperance and Abolition platforms they jumped on at Auburn to make up for what they lost by abandoning the Whig one. This remains to be seen; while their election lays them under as many obligations to the Abolition and Temperance leaders as to the Whigs, who started them.

Ullmann's Know-Nothing nomination next comes in to puzzle and to confound all calculation. What the strength of the Know-Nothings is outside of their lodges and in we have no means of knowing; but if they have any such influence in New York as they have just been having in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, it must be very great.

The course of the candidates has left every man to vote pretty much as he pleases, and absolved him from the usual party obligations. When the votes are counted and election of the candidates is declared the victory will have but very little meaning or definition for any body. If Seymour is elected it must be by Whig votes; if Clark is elected it must be by the Temperance and Abolition Democracy as well as by Whigs; if Ullmann runs in it must be by a vote made up from every body and every thing, voting, as in Pennsylvania, every how.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Commodore PERRY, who has executed his commission to Japan with such remarkable discretion and success, was to leave China by the overland route on the 11th of this month, and expects to reach New York about the middle of January.

We regret to learn from a private letter received from Hong Kong that Commander RINGOLD, of the United States Surveying Expedition, has been deemed incapacitated for duty on account of mental aberration, and is now bound home on board one of the storeships of the squadron. He is a brother of the gallant Major RINGOLD who fell in Mexico. Capt. ROGERS, of the Vancouver, succeeded to the command of the Surveying Expedition in place of Com. RINGOLD.

The Hong Kong (China) Mail of the 6th of August says the U. S. ship Plymouth, with the presents from the Emperor of Japan, left Hong Kong on the 29th of July for New York, via Singapore, Penang, and the Cape of Good Hope. The Commodore, however, has been ordered to the Southampton, with coal for Japan, and will be followed probably by the Lexington; thence both vessels will go to the United States via Cape Horn. The Mississippi, now at Cumingston, with the Suesuehnan, then hourly expected from Shanghai, after a short stay at Macao, will proceed home via the Sandwich Islands and California.

The Powhatan, Macedonian, and Vanilla remain on the Hong Kong station. Commodore PERRY, it was expected, would go home overland by the September mail steamer.

The U. S. ship John Adams, Commander BOTTWELL, was expected to sail from Boston yesterday for San Francisco.

MORTALITY AT THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

The New York Courier states that the experience of the Life Insurance Companies of this country has brought to light certain facts which are not expressed or indicated by the census returns.

In reference to the North, or that portion of the Union embraced northward of the southern line of Virginia and Kentucky, it is shown that the mortality is considerably less than that indicated by the celebrated Carlisle tables. From ten years' practical results it appears that the mortality among that class of persons who insure their lives in the United States is less than one per cent. per annum, or about 94 in every 10,000.

In that section comprised between the thirty-second degree of north latitude (a few miles south of Savannah), and the southern line of Virginia and Kentucky the mortality among the same class of persons is 1.17 per cent. or 117 persons out of every 10,000.

Looking to the extreme Southern States, or south of latitude 32 degrees, the mortality is nearly double that of the northern section, the actual number of deaths out of 10,000 (as insured) being 185.

These calculations are entirely exclusive of the present year, which has perhaps been more fatal in the South than any period since 1850.

This is the experience of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of the city of New York. Their actuary reports that—

"The disparity in the ratio of the amount of claims from death to the amount at risk in these three sections of country has usually been even greater than that of the simple mortality in them. Thus, during the first six months of the present fiscal year, (from 1st February to 1st August), the company has had at risk in the first section \$18,000,000, while the amount of claims in the section has been \$65,500, or \$35 out of every \$10,000 insured. In the second section the amount at risk is \$1,600,000, and the amount of claims during the same time has been \$20,000, or \$125 out of every \$10,000 insured. In the third section the amount at risk is \$1,634,000, while the amount of claims during the same time is \$42,800, or \$262 out of every \$10,000 insured."

The increased mortality at the South has compelled the company to advance the rate of premium on lives insured there. The usual rate of additional premium for persons at the South has been heretofore one per cent. This, it is now shown, is not enough to cover the actual risk; the company will therefore advance the premium to two per cent. beyond the ordinary rate of persons in northern latitudes.

HON. THOMAS H. BAIRD.—Among the eminent citizens of Pennsylvania we do not know one who, by education, abilities, juridical knowledge, and sound principles, is better fitted for a seat in the Senate of the United States, than the gentleman whom we name above. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we have seen the annexed paragraph in a Philadelphia paper:

HON. THOMAS H. BAIRD.—This talented gentleman, who was the American nominee for Supreme Judge at the late election, is named in some places for the United States Senatorship which will be vacated on the 4th of March next by the expiration of Mr. Cooper's term. So far as legal ability, profound learning, and superior intellectual acquirements are concerned, Mr. Baird's superior for this position is not to be found in the State. We hold up both hands for his appointment to the highest honor our country can bestow upon its public men—a seat in the body of great immortals by Clay, Calhoun, Hayne, and Webster.—Banner.

THE UNION AGRICULTURAL FAIR, made up by citizens of North Carolina and Virginia, was opened at Petersburg on Tuesday, and presented a scene of great interest to the many thousands in attendance. The people of the town opened their houses to visitors. The agricultural and mechanical display is described as altogether grand and imposing. An address is to be delivered by the Hon. ABRAHAM W. VENABLE, of North Carolina, well known as a member of Congress from that State. This exhibition is expected to create new zeal and stimulate the pride of the farmers of both States represented.

RESISTANCE TO TAXATION.—The Corporation of Norfolk having passed an ordinance imposing a specific tax upon each of its residents, a physician, and dentist, and an additional tax of one and a half per centum upon the income derived from the practice of their profession, they have held a meeting and resolved to resist its payment as unjust and unconstitutional. Counsel is to be employed to test its legality.

## REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO HONG KONG.

We are authorized to say that the British Colonial postage on all letters conveyed direct between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, whether by packet or private ship, is reduced from twenty-four to twelve cents the single rate.

To this postage of twelve cents a French transit rate of ten cents the quarter ounce will be added in the case of letters which may be forwarded via Marseilles.

Arrangements having been made by Great Britain to collect the British postage on letters to Hong Kong by the route via Marseilles, as well as via Southampton, hereafter the United States postage only should be prepaid in this country on all letters addressed to Hong Kong, without reference to the route by which they are to be forwarded, viz. five cents the single rate where the Atlantic conveyance is by British packet, and twenty-one cents the single rate when by United States packet.

"Truth, they say, lies in a well."

Our amiable neighbor, the Union, is gratified that the Intelligence has "at last been compelled to speak the truth in regard to the recent movements of the Northern Whigs." We really do not precisely know in what particular the Union has discovered the display of this unwelcome virtue in the Intelligence; and were we now to tell the truth we should have to confess that in the case referred to we had fallen on the truth not by "compulsion," but unconsciously. We are glad, however, to have given pleasure to our contemporary even by accident, and we will not forfeit the jewel of its approbation by disclaiming the merit, so rare, which it commends us for; and, as "one good turn deserves another," we would propose to our gratified neighbor that he reciprocate the pleasure we have given him, by trying a little truthful experiment of his own regarding Democratic shortcomings. We are sure that the novelty of the thing will be quite exhilarating to himself, as well as a treat to his readers.

WHO TRIUMPHS?

The State Register at Springfield, Illinois, is anxious to know who wins in the late elections. It decides the question for itself quite satisfactorily:

"Where is the Whig triumph in the success of these factions? They are no where recorded. Whig organs prate of the annihilation of the Democracy by the success of these combinations, but where is Whiggery in the fact? Merged into Abolitionism and Know-Nothingism, it is utterly annihilated and has no existence. Whigs who believe that there is yet such a party may well exclaim, 'save us from the success which binds us to the party of disunion, religious bigotry and intolerance, and makes these the platform upon which we are to stand.'"

Well, if the cannon of Whiggery are spiked, why give yourself so much uneasiness about the small arms? But the 7th of November is near at hand, and will furnish a balm for all Democratic wounds or an extinguisher of all their hopes.

COMPACT WITH THE LEW-CHEW KINGDOM.

The "Overland Register" of the 6th of August, printed at Hong-Kong, (China,) contains the terms of a compact entered into by the authorities of Lew-Chew with Com. PERRY.

By this compact citizens of the United States going to Lew-Chew are to be treated with great courtesy and friendship, and are to be supplied with wood and water and other articles at fair prices. Wrecked ships are to be assisted and life and property saved.

Persons from United States ships are to be allowed to go ashore in Lew-Chew, but if guilty of any disorder are to be arrested, but not maltreated, and reported to the captain of the ship.

There is at Tunal a burial-ground for citizens of the United States, where their graves and tombs are not to be molested.

Pilots are to be appointed to conduct ships in and out; wood is to be furnished ships in want at a prescribed rate; sailing directions are promulgated for vessels bound to the various harbors; and regulations are also adopted in regard to various other matters.

Altogether there seems to have been established a very good feeling between these people and ours.

WAKING UP.

We are glad to see that our worthy contemporary of the Petersburg Intelligence has not been dull in perceiving the "two faces under a hood" in Northern Democratic politics. Since the attempt of some of the Northwestern editors to prove that the Whig candidates were trying to re-establish slavery south of 36° 30' the faith of more than one Southern journal has been a little shaken. The Petersburg Intelligence of Thursday says:

We do not know how the result of the late elections may be regarded by others, but, for our own part, we are glad of it, not because we have any sympathy with Abolitionists and Revolutionists, but because we have long desired to see the masks stripped from the faces of a band of as arch hypocrites and traitors as ever disgraced humanity. They stand now fully exposed in the light of day. We have never believed in the 'National Allies of the South'; but, on the contrary, always looked forward to the time when they would stand exposed in their true colors. That the 'National Allies' have done the job, in these elections is as clear as a mathematical demonstration; for it must be remembered that the Whigs were in a minority in these States, and the accession of strength which gave them the late elections could have been obtained from no other source than the Democratic or 'National Ally' ranks. We rejoice at the late result, too, because it will awaken the South to her true position. For years past, instead of looking her condition fully in the face, she has been most pusillanimously and foolishly prating of 'National Allies' and other stupid twaddle."

COUNTERFEIT CHAMPAGNE.—A trial in New York has brought out some singular facts touching the manufacture of Newark cider into the choicest brands of champagne. Empty champagne bottles are bought at the hotels and other places, the labels are ingeniously imitated, and the whole finished and packed are in exact resemblance to the genuine article. The effervescence is given to the cider by forcing air into the bottles. The spurious champagne is sold in great quantities to the hotels and to dealers, and the quantity of it drunk, it is said, greatly exceeds that of the genuine imitation.

CITY LEGISLATION.—Our Councils are very much engrossed with the subject of the new restrictive measures on hand.

In the Board of Aldermen petitions numerous signed were presented on the subject of the sale of liquor, asking a suspension for a time of the enactment lately made. These were referred, and will require prompt action, as the first of November is near at hand. The bill appropriating one thousand dollars to purchase wood for the poor in January and February was passed by this Board. A bill was reported, in response to the memorial of Messrs. Willard, Brown, and others, regulating tavern licenses and prohibiting tipping-houses. It allows taverns to sell in large or small quantities to boarders and guests. The new bread bill from the other Board was referred.

In the Common Council a bill was passed for the appointment of a superintendent of public schools and to abolish the offices of secretary and treasurer.

The Boards met jointly, and appointed trustees of the public schools. Only three of the old trustees were retained. A list of the new trustees will be found in the official proceedings published in another column.

## FROM CHINA.

We have received from China, the semi-monthly publications of the Friend of China and China Mail of August 5th and 6th, which contain a variety of information of some interest.

The condition of the city of Canton had become extremely alarming from the increased number and violence of the insurgents who assailed it, and who were prevented from entering the city only by force of the city walls and their being destitute of artillery. They were, however, engaged in casting iron cannon, and their number was supposed to be about thirty thousand. The Governor-General had withdrawn his troops within the city, from which they made sallies almost daily upon the insurgents, and also fired upon them with heavy cannon from the city walls, charged with various missiles and combustibles. All the gates were kept shut except the two nearest the foreigners' quarters. On the 24th of August the rebels, under a heavy rain, advanced in strong force to the square fort on the hill where the Tartar portion of the Canton garrison were encamped, and were received by so profuse a discharge of these combustibles that they were obliged to retire. It was ascertained by the Imperialists that upwards of a thousand rebels were killed by thirty-six discharges of a very large gun. The reports, however, on either side, are found to be entitled to very little credit, and the editors of the Friend of China complain of the impossibility of obtaining reliable information, even through special agents, because the Imperialists were liable to being suspected of favoring the insurgents. They, however, say that the population of the city was in a much more serious state of alarm than a fortnight previous; that nearly every shop and house of business in the wards in rear of the factories was partially or wholly closed; and that almost every day was given to the besieging party. The foreign trade was at an entire standstill. Three large villages in the vicinity of the city, it is said, raised the rebel standard. Large numbers of the population at Canton had gone to Macao and to Hong Kong.

The Friend of China publishes two proclamations of the Canton authorities. One of them requires all the inhabitants of the city to keep in readiness tubs of water for the extinguishment of fire, to assist in the necessity of opening the gates for the admission of fire engines from the suburbs in case of a conflagration, thereby giving occasion for the admission of the insurgents. They are required, in case fire occurs, to extinguish them instantly, and "lose no time by hesitancy or looking on idly." The other proclamation requires the Imperial Commissioner to order the people of the province to be on their guard against being deceived and enticed away by the insurgents, and are told that if the said rebels dare to skulk into the villages in the vicinity of the city, "it is the duty of all good people, without exception, to be exceedingly wary with them, as their enemies," and add "you must at once lead out your village braves and at once attack them," with a promise of special rewards to all who distinguished themselves.

In proof of the barbarities committed in the vicinity of the city, it is stated that "the rebels on the 24th and 25th of August, last, killed every man, woman, and child, and brought down upon them a shower of stones, and on one occasion a batch of ten was seen floating in a heap. Whether these acts of barbarity are committed by the Imperialists or the rebels no one knows. One party is as blood-thirsty and cruel as the other."

There is still additional information of the progress of the insurgents at the North. It does not appear that they had recently made any advance towards Peking. Sir John Bowring, the new Commissioner, was still at Shanghai, where he had been in correspondence with the merchants in the question of export duties. The steamship Lady May Wood, lately arrived at Hong Kong from Shanghai after leaving the port heard a furious bombardment of the city walls and a terrible explosion, from which "it was feared the place had been recaptured by the Imperialists." It was said that five mines were sprung under different parts of the wall.

[Boston Daily Advertiser.]

THE COST OF THE RECLAMATION OF ANTHONY BURNS. The proceedings under the fugitive slave law at Boston, in the case of Anthony Burns, not long since reclaimed by his master, Capt. Suttle, of Alexandria, Virginia, cost the United States within a fraction of \$27,000 for extra police and military force alone. This does not cover the usual ordinary expenses incurred in the case, such as the fees of the regular officers of the United States employed in the case. Fifteen thousand of the above \$27,000 were paid this morning.—Star of last evening.

During Sunday and Monday last 11,504 immigrants from foreign countries arrived at the port of New York.

MALAGA FRUIT.—We are likely soon to be well supplied with raisins. Three cargoes from Malaga arrived at Boston on Sunday and Monday, and the accounts from Malaga represent the new crop of fruit to be unusually good.

VIRGINIA HOSPITALITY.—The Agricultural State Fair, to be held at Richmond on the 31st instant, is expected to be a gathering of unusual interest. The apprehension that strangers attracted thither might meet with some difficulty in getting quarters has roused the liberal people of Richmond, and at a public meeting the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS it is anticipated that a large number of our fellow-citizens from various parts of the State will be attracted to this city during the State Agricultural Fair, to be held next week; and as we should be prepared to receive them in our homes and give them a hearty and hospitable welcome: Resolved, That our fellow-citizens who visit us a cordial Virginia welcome.

Resolved, That we will, each and every one of us, exert ourselves to see that they are provided for.

Committees were appointed for each ward to carry out the welcome in something more substantial than words; and all visitors will find themselves "at home" during the Fair.

The citizens of Springfield, Massachusetts, are to hold a grand "Jubilee" on Wednesday, the first day of November, in honor of the restoration of the civil superintendence of the national armories.

At a meeting of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, on the 9th instant, the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred on the Rev. JOHN McLEAN, D.D., President of Princeton College. This is only the ninth time that this degree has been conferred by the Board in a period of eighty years.

COUNTERFEITS ARRESTED.—The Chicago Journal of the 16th instant gives an account of the arrest of several counterfeiters in that city, who had been manufacturing and passing counterfeit money for some time. They had with them a large number of horses which they had purchased with bad money. Upon them was found a large supply of bogus coin and bills, the latter upon the City Bank of New Haven. One of the party said his name was Samuel Mitchell.

LIFE-PRESERVERS.—A sea-captain, writing to the Richmond Dispatch about the dangers of shipwreck, says: "A feather pillow has a buoyant power fully equal to half a dozen of the best life-preservers ever invented, and that a common mattress will make a raft amply sufficient to float a man and trunk." [Important, if true.]

IMPORTANT DECISION WITH REGARD TO TRAVEL.—It will be recollected that the charter of the Boston and Lowell Railroad Corporation contains a provision designed to so regulate the rates of fare on that line as to prevent the carrying of the whole of the through traffic in freight and passengers between Boston and Lowell; but that within a few years past a "new route" has been established, by which cars are run through from Boston to Lowell over the Boston and Maine and other non-paying railroads. The Supreme Judicial Court has decided that the charter of the Boston and Lowell Corporation is infringed by the sale of through tickets and the running of through cars, whether for freight or passengers, by other companies under an agreement to divide the profits. The opinion of the Court is one of Chief Justice State's longest and ablest papers.

We record this decision with gratification. We have no doubt of its correctness, and long since expressed our opinion in accordance with this view of the requirements of the charter.—Boston Daily Advertiser.

BEAR HUNTING IN VERMONT.—Bears are thicker than blackberries in the northern part of Vermont. Finding poor pickings among the mountains, in consequence of the drought last summer, the fire, and scarcity of beech-nuts, they come out into the open fields and make themselves perfectly at home among the farmers, helping themselves to sheep and any thing else to which they take a fancy. In the town of Concord, away up on the Connecticut, fifteen sheep were taken from one flock in a single night. In West Concord a bear was taken in a trap which weighed four hundred pounds, and sold for nine dollars; but the market is so over-stocked that they are quoted at six dollars for the best—the skins are worth from three to four dollars. One fellow weighing over five hundred pounds sold for twenty dollars. Five hundred hunters from St. Johnsbury and vicinity, a few days since, on the alert, and, under the leadership of a hunter named Allen, killed some twenty bears before night. Meanwhile the Green Mountains in that section, instead of paying twelve cents a pound for beef steaks, are luxuriating upon bear steaks of the best quality, and which may be had for the mere fun of going after them.

[Boston Chronicle.]

## INDIAN AFFAIRS IN WESTERN TEXAS.

The last advices from Western Texas convey intelligence with regard to the condition of affairs there well calculated to excite serious alarm for the safety of some of the frontier garrisons. The Comanche Indians, conscious of the weakness of our military force in their vicinity, have, within the past few months, been growing daily more bold and defiant in their excursions for purposes of rapine and murder on the inhabitants of so poorly protected a region. Unfortunately the small army force under Brevet Major General SMITH is so cut up by garrisons remote from each other, and has been so thinned by sickness, desertion, or expiration of service, that it has been for a year or more considered altogether inadequate to the protection of the frontier to which it has been assigned.

We are much pained at the information contained in the Austin State Gazette of the 7th instant, that Fort Chadbourne, with its garrison of about fifty men, under the command of Capt. P. Calhoun, of the 2d dragoons, is considered as in imminent danger of an attack from the Comanches, amounting to five or six hundred warriors, assembled in its neighborhood. These Indians will not in all probability suffer so fine an opportunity for theft and murder to pass; and we greatly fear that we may soon have to chronicle the massacre of several valuable officers and the men under their charge, with the loss or destruction of a considerable amount of public property.

The information of the Austin Gazette is derived from a letter from Capt. CALHOUN to Major KNOWLTON, the famous Indian Agent in Texas, and it communicates the painful and humiliating fact that such is the absence of any feeling of respect for the force at Fort Chadbourne among the Comanches, and such the entire powerlessness of its gallant commander, as brave an officer we know as any in the service, to enforce respect, that the savages had at the date of the last letter attacked and wounded one of the garrison the previous night within a few hundred yards of the Fort. How heartily we wish that Capt. Calhoun had then had the hundred men that he wanted that he might have carried, in his own words, "the war into Africa."

We have had the most reliable information, from various sources, as to the extraordinary and most unsatisfactory state of affairs among our troops and garrisons in Western Texas. The truth is, our military strength is almost entirely exhausted, and the frontier is in a state of almost total defense from the large bodies of hostile savages, bold, many of them well armed, and rendered confident by the apparent weakness of the posts. Something must be done, and that speedily, to change this state of things. The army must be increased.

At present, however, our accomplished officers, with good means at their disposal in a manner which is in the highest degree disgraceful to Congress; for that body has long ago been fully informed of the wants and requirements of the service; and had they done it and the country justice, proper remedies would have been applied in time to have saved many lives and much property from Indian depredations.—New Orleans Courier.

## FROM THE WESTERN PLAINS.

The Council Bluffs Eagle of the 3d instant contains the subjoined intelligence from the Western Plain, furnished by a party of gentlemen who left the city of Salt Lake on the 15th of August.

"The city was crowded with California emigrants. Crops of all extraneous wheat, and wheat and oats were harvested. Flour was selling at \$5 per hundred. A number of merchant trains had arrived, and most kinds of merchandise was plenty and rapidly being exchanged for gold. Money seemed plenty. An abundance of rain had fallen, so that irrigation had been unnecessary. A great number of men were employed upon the Temple, which is to be built of a beautiful kind of red freestone, hewed and polished. The city wall on one side was being constructed, having been carried away by water from a cloud that broke over the mountains. Improvement in the city was rapidly progressing. Some splendid houses are being erected. The manufacture of iron is going on to a considerable extent. Ploughs are going up on short notice. A large amount of sugar beets have been raised, and the refinery was being put in operation, and is expected to produce nearly a million of pounds of sugar. Common laborers found ready employment at from \$2 to \$3 per day."

"A great number of teams had been sent out to meet the coming emigration, with good experienced pilots to conduct the several companies in."

"On the 10th of August we were on our way from San Francisco to Utah, having been converted to Mormonism."

"The party also met three trains of English, Danish, and other foreign emigrants on their way to Utah, comprising in the whole over two hundred wagons, besides many smaller companies."

"All the cattle on the road looked well, and all the companies were free from sickness and in fine spirits. Grass and water were plenty upon the whole route."

"Met the troops sent to Utah on account of the Indian difficulties back on Green river; arrived at Fort Laramie five days after the fact of the massacre, found the 600 lodges of the Minnekaonic band of Sioux (who had perpetrated the murder) about twelve miles below the fort at the American Fur Company station, and also a large number of Cheyennes, awaiting the arrival of Major Whitfield (successor to Major Fitzpatrick) with his troops, to distribute the presents and ammunition."

"The Sioux had, immediately after the perpetration of the murders, seized upon the presents intended for them, which were lying at the station, but did not further mischief. They allege that the murder was not committed by the Minnekaonic band, but by the Cheyennes, who shot the cow, but in revenge for the death of a number of Indians by the soldiers last season for some murder of whites by the Indians."

DOES A SINKING SHIP CREATE A WHIRLPOOL?

Among the discussions which have grown out of the loss of the steamship Arctic is one as to whether a sinking ship creates a whirlpool. The following communication, addressed to the editor of the Portland Advertiser, seems to us to convey the true theory:

"The idea that a sinking ship causes a whirlpool is without reason or without example. Of course if a ship fills entirely with water there will be no vacuum for the water outside to rush into, and consequently no commotion. If, on the other hand, it goes down while there is yet a body of air beneath its decks, a body of water just equal to the bulk of air must be drawn in. You must have read in the history of the wreck of the ship of the line, off the coast of England. In this case men, pieces of timber, and all floating objects were quickly drawn in. One man who was saved says, 'It seemed as if I had 100 pounds on each foot, so rapidly was I drawn down.' Where the water regained its balance there light objects were retained, and the ship sank, and the water below the second deck; the space between the first and second decks was filled with water when the ship went down, into which a mass of water equal in bulk to the space between decks rushed. Thus it is that both sides of the argument are correct. The manner of sinking, whether empty or full, will determine whether or not there is to be a whirlpool."

GEO. E. YOE."

HANDSOME DONATION.

We learn that Mrs. MARGARET LENOX, widow of the late PETER LENOX, has given the sum of one thousand dollars to the Catholic Orphan Asylum of this city. It is said that this liberal donation was made very opportunely, the wants of the institution, from the heavy number of its dependants, being somewhat pressing. We add the card of thanks of the Managers:

"The Trustees of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum acknowledge the receipt of one thousand dollars from Mrs. MARGARET LENOX as a donation to said Asylum; and they return to her their sincere thanks for this liberal contribution to the education and support of the orphan."